

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: EAGR, UR

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL OBSERVATIONS, MOSCOW- SIMFEROPOL, JUNE 13-17

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

1. ASSISTANT AGATTACHE DANYLUK AND CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL OFFICER
GROUNDWATER TRAVELED BY CAR MOSCOW- OREL- KIEV- KHARKOV- ZAPOROZHYE-
SIMFEROPOL, JUNE 13-17.

2. SUMMARY: GRAINS: WINTER GRAINS DEVELOPING RAPIDLY IN GOOD
CLEAN STANDS. SOUTHERN AREAS GRAIN PASSING INTO WAX STAGE WITH
STRAW DEFINITELY STARTING TO CHANGE COLOR. SPRING GRAINS
GENERALLY GOOD BUT MORE ADVANCED AND VERY GOOD IN THE SOUTH.
MOST IN GOOD EVEN STANDS, SOME SHOWING SLIGHT CHANGE IN COLOR.
CORN IN VARIOUS STAGES OF GROWTH. SOMEWHAT WEEDY IN LATE PLANTED
FIELDS; FEWER WEEDS IN MORE ADVANCED FIELDS. BUCKWHEAT CLEAN,
EVEN, AND ADVANCED FIELDS IN FULL BLOOM. ROW CROPS ALL ADVANC-
ING FAVORABLY. SUNFLOWER IN GOOD, CLEAN, EVEN STANDS IN VARIOUS
STAGES OF GROWTH. SOME DEVELOPING FLOWER BUDS, FEW FIELDS WITH
SCATTERED FLOWERS. SUGARBEETS WELL ADVANCED AND IN GOOD CONDITION.
SOME FIELDS STARTING TO ROOT. POTATOES GOOD AND STARTING TO BLOOM.
FORAGE CROPS -- ALFALFA AND CLOVER IN GOOD, FULL STANDS. MOST ARE
BLOOMING, SOME COMPLETELY HARVESTED, SOME PARTIALLY CUT. SECOND
GROWTH GOOD. MIXED FORAGE CROPS GOOD GROWTH BUT GENERALLY WEEDY.

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PASTURES FAIR TO GOOD. SOME MEADOWS BEING HARVESTED FOR HAY. SOIL
MOISTURE DEFICIENT MOSCOW- KIEV, SOMEWHAT BETTER KIEV- KHARKOV DUE
TO RECENT RAINS. KHARKOV- SIMFEROPOL SOIL MOISTURE GOOD -- REPLENISHED
FROM RECENT RAINS. LIVESTOCK -- ALL CATTLE GENERALLY FAIR TO GOOD

CONDITION. END SUMMARY.

3. GRAINS: WINTER GRAINS: WINTER WHEAT PROGRESSING FAVORABLY AND RAPIDLY REACHING FULL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF GRAIN. MAJORITY OF FIELDS HAVE GOOD THICK STANDS, ARE CLEAN AND EVEN. AVERAGE HEIGHT THREE AND ONE- HALF FEET WITH SOME FIELDS IN SOUTH TO FOUR FEET. COLOR RANGING FROM GREEN BETWEEN OREL- KIEV LINE TO YELLOWISH AND GOLDEN NEAR ZAPOROZHYE- SIMFEROPOL. GRAIN FORMATION MORE ADVANCED IN SOUTH AND FOLLOWS PATTERN OF FIELD COLORING. MORE ADVANCED GRAIN IN WAX STAGE AND FULL KERNEL DEVELOPMENT. WINTER RYE WELL ADVANCED, HEADED, BLOOMING AND GOING INTO MILKY STAGE. BETWEEN KHARKOV- ZAPOROZHYE SOME FIELDS IN WAX STAGE. ALL FIELDS CLEAN AND EVEN WITH AVERAGE HEIGHT BETWEEN FOUR AND FOUR AND ONE- HALF FEET. SOME FIELDS SOUTH OF KHARKOV ABOUT FIVE FEET AND BEGINNING TO TURN. WINTER BARLEY GENERALLY GOOD TO VERY GOOD. MAJORITY WITH GOOD STANDS, CLEAN, AND EVEN. AVERAGE HEIGHT FROM THREE TO THREE AND ONE- HALF FEET. COLOR OF FIELDS CHANGED PROGRESSIVELY GOING SOUTH. MOST FIELDS KERNELS IN WAX STAGE WITH SOME QUITE HARD ESPECIALLY BETWEEN ZAPOROZHYE- SIMFEROPOL BUT NOT DRY ENOUGH TO BE HARVESTED. SPRING GRAINS: SPRING BARLEY CONSIDERED FAIR TO GOOD IN THE NORTH BUT VERY GOOD AND MORE ADVANCED IN SOUTHERN AREA. IN THE NORTH AVERAGE HEIGHT RANGED FROM EIGHT TO 12 INCHES. FIELDS WERE UNEVEN AND SOME FIELDS WERE LIGHT GREEN IN COLOR. MORE ADVANCED FIELDS KIEV- SIMFEROPOL HAD GOOD STANDS, CLEAN AND HEADING AT THREE TO THREE AND ONE- HALF FEET. SOME SLIGHT CHANGE IN COLOR OBSERVED IN SOME FIELDS. ONLY A FEW FIELDS OF OATS ENCOUNTERED BETWEEN KIEV AND SIMFEROPOL. THEY WERE IN CLEAN, EVEN STANDS, PARTIALLY OR FULLY HEADED. AVERAGE HEIGHT ABOUT THREE FEET. CORN WAS IN VARIOUS STAGES OF ADVANCEMENT AND QUALITY. MOST FIELDS IN NORTH WERE POOR TO FAIR AND LATE PLANTED. WEEDS APPEARED TO BE A PROBLEM HERE ALTHOUGH SOME FIELDS WERE BEING WORKED. AVERAGE HEIGHT HERE FOUR TO SIX INCHES. BETTER AND TALLER CORN ENCOUNTERED BETWEEN KIEV- ZAPOROZHYE. AVERAGE HEIGHT 10 TO 24 INCHES, MOST CLEAN AND EVEN WITH FEW WEEDY FIELDS. BUCKWHEAT ENCOUNTERED BETWEEN KIEV AND KHARKOV. FIELDS IN FULL BLOOM, CLEAN, AND EVEN FROM ONE TO ONE AND ONE- HALF FEET TALL. SOME LATE PLANTED FIELDS, CLEAN AND EVEN AT THREE TO FOUR INCHES.

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4. ROW CROPS: MOST SUNFLOWER FIELDS WERE GOOD TO VERY GOOD. STANDS WERE EVEN AND CLEAN, BETWEEN THREE AND THREE AND ONE- HALF FEET TALL. LATE FIELDS WERE WELL ADVANCED, CLEAN AND GOOD; HEIGHT RANGED 10 TO 12 INCHES. ONE FIELD OBSERVED HAD FLOWER BUDS AND ONE SHOWED A FEW BLOOMS. SUGARBEETS WERE NEARLY ALL GOOD TO VERY GOOD. MOST STANDS WERE CLEAN AND EVEN. INSOME FIELDS WEEDING WAS IN PROGRESS. AVERAGE HEIGHT OF PLANTS BETWEEN EIGHT AND 10 INCHES -- SOME WERE ROOTING. POTATOES WERE GOOD TO VERY GOOD. ALL IN CLEAN FIELDS, EVEN AND RANGING IN HEIGHT FROM 10 - 12 INCHES. SOME FIELDS WERE BLOOMING.

5. FORAGE CROPS: ALFALFA AND CLOVER WERE IN GOOD THICK STANDS

RANGING IN HEIGHT FROM ONE AND ONE- HALF TO TWO AND ONE- HALF FEET. MOST WERE BLOOMING AND SOME WERE BEING CUT. MOWED FIELDS AND GOOD SECOND GROWTH FOUR TO SIX INCHES TALL. MIXED FORAGE CROPS INCLUDED VARIOUS COMBINATIONS OF VETCH, SUNDAN, AND SUNFLOWER. STANDS WERE GOOD AND THICK RANGING IN HEIGHT FROM EIGHT TO 18 INCHES. MOST MIXED FORAGE CROPS WERE QUITE WEEDY. IN THIS AREA SOME GRAIN FIELDS WERE BEING CUT PRESUMABLY FOR SILAGE.

6. PASTURES WERE GENERALLY FAIR TO GOOD. SOME LOW PASTURE- MEADOW LAND WAS HARVESTED AND HAY STACKED IN FIELD.

7. SOIL MOISTURE BETWEEN MOSCOW AND TULA WAS DEFINITELY DEFICIENT AND COULD NOT BE TESTED BEYOND SIX INCHES. AT THIS DEPTH, SOIL WAS CRUMBLY AND DRY. CROPS IN THIS AREA DID NOT SHOW STRESS. BUT APPEARED CROPS MADE LITTLE PROGRESS SINCE LAST OBSERVATION HERE JUNE 1. TULA- OREL SOIL MOISTURE BETTER BUT DEVELOPING CONDITION MAY BE

DUE TO RECENT RAINS. OREL- KIEV SOIL MOISTURE POOR TO FAIR WITH SOIL CRUMBLING AT 10 INCHES DEEP. AREA HAS HAD RECENT RAIN BUT WILL NEED MORE TO PREVENT SERIOUS DEFICIENCY. NO STRESS SHOWN BY CROPS. KIEV- KHARKOV SOIL MOISTURE FAIR. TOP LAYERS DOWN TO 6-8 INCHES BECOMING DEFICIENT AND OFTEN SOIL WOULD NOT BALL READILY AT 8 TO 10 INCHES. SOME AREAS BETTER BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF RECENT RAINS. NO VISIBLE SIGNALS CROP DISTRESS BUT CROP DEVELOPMENT WILL SLOW DOWN IF ADDITIONAL MOISTURE NOT AVAILABLE SOON. KHARKOV- ZAPOROZHYE SOIL MOISTURE GOOD, READILY BALLED AT FIVE INCHES. SOIL MOISTURE GOOD THROUGHOUT -- RAIN FALLING CONTINUALLY WHILE TRAVELING THIS LEG. ALL STREAMS ENCOUNTERED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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WERE FULL INDICATING GOOD RAIN UPSTREAM. ZAPOROZHYE- SIMFEROPOL SOIL MOISTURE GOOD TO EXCELLENT ALSO DUE RECENT RAINS.

8. CATTLE PRIMARILY DAIRY HERDS -- RED STEPPE -- LOOKED GOOD. ONE HERD VERY FAT AND SLEEK, BETTER THAN EXPECTED FROM DUAL PURPOSE CATTLE ON GRASS. ONE HEIFER HERD OBSERVED -- FAIR BUT THIN.

9. MISCELLANEOUS: TWO FIELDS OF FLAX OBSERVED; CONDITION GOOD TO VERY GOOD.
DUBS

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